



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ELIZABETH M. COGGS
10th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

WIS-ENEWS-10

Dear Constituent,

As we celebrate African-American History Month... we in Madison, Wisconsin are appalled with the rushing of Governor's Walkers bill SB 11 through this system that we call "DEMOCRACY."

I say to my sisters and brothers we must overcome...the [election results](#) for [voter turnout](#) last Tuesday were appalling...did you vote? Did you take someone to the polls to vote? Once the Republican controlled State of Wisconsin rushes these initiatives through... it will set worker's rights and human rights over one hundred years back...we will loose...our families will loose...and the have-nots and middle class will loose more and more.

When you don't vote, you don't take your power to the [ballot boxes](#). I was stopped in the store yesterday by a young man named "Jason" and he shared with me that he wanted to get our brothers out to vote. What are you doing to get the vote out? How are you protesting and standing up for your rights? We understand that many of you have to work, but we as citizens must do better. We look around at the protesters on day seven and I have to say where are the black, brown, red and yellow people...yes we have seen a few; but we should be out in masses.

We probably are not because we don't have any jobs in the first place and the ones' that do have a job... wants to keep them. Did our ancestors sit quietly by while they were overlooked, mistreated, beat down and enslaved? Do you carry the spirit of our ancestors; those who made it through the middle passage? Are you a [Sojourner Truth](#)? Do you have the strength to organize like [Booker T. Washington](#), Dorthy Height, WEB DuBois or [Marcus Garvey](#)? Are you prepared to suffer as Dr. Martin L. King, Jr or [Malcolm X](#) did? Do you have the courage to push your ideas, thoughts and visions through the dismal economy and stand up for human rights? When your child looks to you; do they see a drum major for justice or a couch potato?

If you don't have a job, you should be here. If you do have a job, you should be using a vacation day. If we don't make a stand now, the photo identification [voting rights law](#) is around the corner. I call it the new poll tax of the millennium.

As we look at the big business of incarceration, we see more and more men and women of color incarcerated and coming out of prison without jobs. If we stay silent and sit on the sidelines, this state of affairs for poor people will get worse and the middle class will vanish. I call out to those who are large and small organizations and Large and small churches to get up and get involved. WE NEED YOU! WE CAN ONLY REPRESENT

AND BE RESPECTED BY OUR PEERS WHEN WE HAVE YOU VOTE IN FORCE AND WHEN WE HAVE YOU SPEAK UP IN FORCE. WE KNOW THIS IS A PRECURSOR TO NOT RE-ELECT OUR PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA. WE NEED TO STAND AND BE LIKE THE VERIZON COMMERCIAL WITH THOUSANDS OF YOU ALL STANDING IN SUPPORT OF YOUR BLACK AND BROWN STATE REPRESENTATIVES.

It has been a historic week in Madison and throughout the great state of Wisconsin. Yesterday, over 60,000 protesters joined together at the State Capitol to rally in support of workers and their right to collectively bargain. We are at ground zero in the national battle to preserve the rights of workers, and I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on what is happening in the Capitol.



As I'm sure you are aware, Governor Scott Walker announced on Friday the 11th that he would be proposing a budget adjustment bill prior to introducing his 2011-13 state budget proposal. On Tuesday the 15th, the Joint Finance Committee began a public hearing on this bill at 10:00am. While Republicans decided to cut off speakers and leave the hearing after 17 hours of testimony, I stepped up with other Democratic leaders to continue the public hearing so that taxpaying citizens would have a chance to exercise their constitutional right to petition their government.

Because of our effort to extend the public hearing, thousands of additional citizens have been able to express their concerns with Gov. Walker's proposal and we have now had over 80 hours of public testimony on this bill.

On Friday, Republicans tried to force an illegal vote while Democrats were in a briefing with the bill drafters. This outrageous affront to the laws governing our legislature further proves their willingness to trample the rights of the minority to enact Gov. Walker's anti-worker agenda. Thankfully, we stopped them in their tracks and forced them to adjourn for the week without passing their bill.

From the beginning of this debate, I have said that this issue is about rights. Walker's bill would deny tens of thousands of Wisconsin nurses, teachers, EMTs and other public employees the rights that nearly every other American enjoys. Public employees know that everyone will need to share in the sacrifices, and on Friday offered to accept the proposed wage and benefit concessions if Gov. Walker would abandon his attempt to repeal collective bargaining rights. That request fell on deaf ears.

Despite the challenges we still face in defeating this bill, I continue to be overwhelmed by the outpouring of support shown by the thousands of taxpaying citizens in La Crosse and throughout our state. We must now look ahead to stopping this bill from being passed by the Republican Assembly on Tuesday and opposing the anti-worker agenda that is being advanced by Republicans.

You've had my back for years, and I can assure you that I will continue to have your back in Madison. The fight is not over, but your strength, perseverance, and unwavering support gives me great hope that we shall overcome these challenges.

Yours in Solidarity,

State Representative Elizabeth M. Coggs and Representative Leon Young had an opportunity to chair the public hearing in Madison, Wisconsin today and heard heart breaking testimony from Wisconsin Residents over and over again of how they would loose on worker rights and basic human rights.



Thousands of citizens have taken time off of work to practice civil disobedience and protest the Governor Walker's Emergency Repair Bill.

Representative Young said, "I thank the hundreds of people in the audience for their hard work and dedication as public employees and commend them in keeping this state safe, secure, protected and educated. We must work together to defeat this measure let us protect our state of Wisconsin and keep it moving forward."

Representative Elizabeth M. Coggs shared a few comments, "years ago Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. campaigned for worker rights in Memphis, Tennessee with the "I Am Man", worker boycotted. Today we as citizens say "I am man," "I am woman," "I am a worker and I must have my worker's rights." We must take our power to the ballot box and stand up to those who want to set us back fifty years...this is just a pre cursor of what will be done in the next two years not only in Wisconsin but across this country."

This is a manufactured crisis; a budget repair bill is not required. Republicans are using a more than \$3 billion deficit as an excuse to enact

their radical agenda, which does NOT help the deficit. According to the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau, state agencies collectively requested \$3.9 billion in new spending requests from agencies are not a real deficit – requests are never all approved. When you subtract an increase in projected revenues from inflated agency budget requests, you can see simply that this is a manufactured budget crisis that isn't real, just an excuse for more radical proposals. This bill does nothing to address shortfalls with Minnesota tax reciprocity and Injured Patients Compensation Fund – two things Walker uses as the justification for having a budget adjustment bill. Just say “NO.”

Office of State Representative Elizabeth M Coggs

10th Assembly District

608.266.0960

888.534.0010 (toll-free)

tracey.dent@legis.wisconsin.gov

Room 409 North, State Capitol